

Re: Docket Number 01N-0256

9/7/01

Dear Ms. Topper;

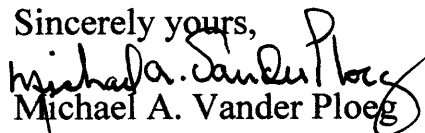
I'm one of the 800,000 Americans affected with CFIDS (chronic fatigue immune dysfunction syndrome) and chronic pain. We are normally referred to as PWC's, (Person With Cfids). I was diagnosed in 1991 at the Cheney Clinic in Charlotte North Carolina. I was the Vice President of a CFIDS & Fibromyalagic support group, but due to the disabling effects of CFIDS I can no longer participate.

I started using pain medications in 1991. I tried conventional pain medication, but nothing worked until I started using time released Duragesic medications in 1997 and continue it's use to date. Prior to this change in medications I thought about ending my life due to unrelenting pain associated with CFIDS and chronic pain several times.

I implore you to consider allowing the use of (Opoid) medications for CFIDS and other chronic pain when clinically indicated including pediatric patients.

Chronic pain in CFIDS and in general has yet to be addressed in a compassionate humane order by Physicians and other health officials. Pain is now considered to be one of the vitals by the Veterans Administration and nursing homes throughout the United States.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,  
  
Michael A. Vander Ploeg  
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White Cloud, Michigan 49349-9719